6. A RUDE PERSON APPEARS

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bam
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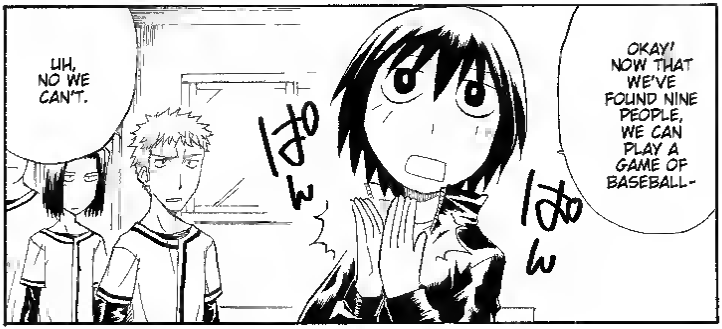
bam


OKAY! NOW THAT WE'VE FOUND NINE PEOPLE, WE CAN PLAY A GAME OF BASEBALL-
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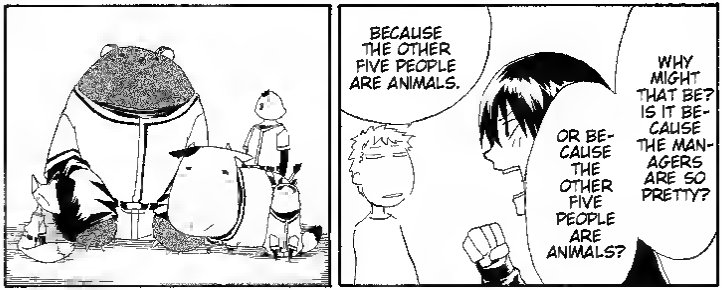
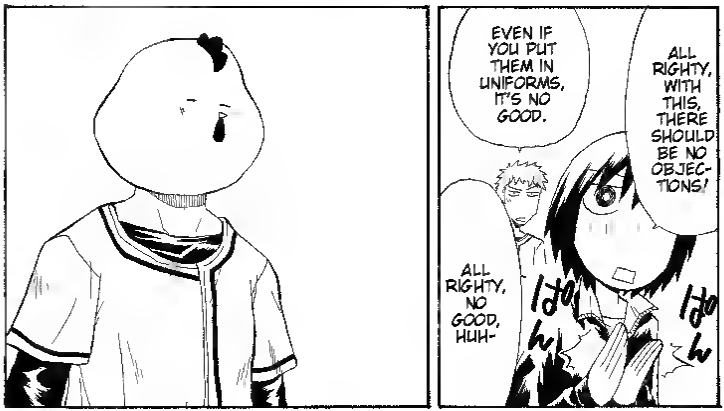
UH, NO WE CAN'T.


WHY MIGHT THAT BE? IS IT BECAUSE THE MANAGERS ARE SO PRETTY?
OR BECAUSE THE OTHER FIVE PEOPLE ARE ANIMALS?
BECAUSE THE OTHER FIVE PEOPLE ARE ANIMALS.


ALL RIGHTY, WITH THIS, THERE SHOULD BE NO OBJECTIONS!
EVEN IF YOU PUT THEM IN UNIFORMS, IT'S NO GOOD.
ALL RIGHTY, NO GOOD, HUH-
ぽん
ぽん

THAT GUY IS HAMADA.
UH... I'M ROOSTER.
HE'S ROO-STER!
YES?
HAMA-DA.
WHERE DID I GO WRONG?!
I HAD CONFI-DENCE IN MYSELF, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK.
DON'T MAKE SUCH OBVIOUS LIES.
I LIED.
IT'S TRUE. I'M SORRY.
YOU DAMN MUSH-ROOM!
THINK ABOUT IT YOUR-SELF!!

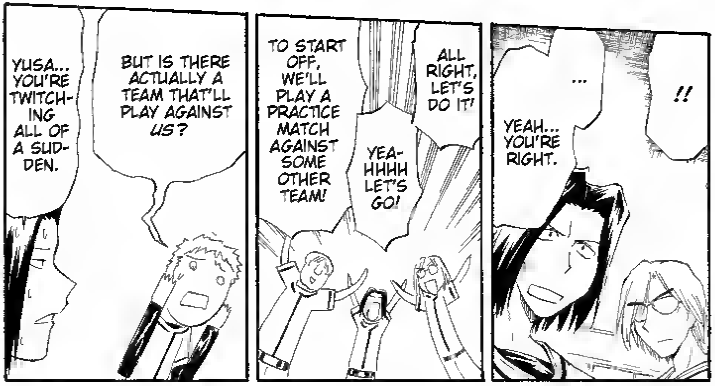
NOW THEN ...
YUSA-KUN? ...THAT'S YOU, RIGHT?
YEAH, THAT'S ME. WHAT'S UP WITH THAT, YOU KNOW WHO I AM.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LIKE THAT AND GIVE UP BEFORE YOU'VE EVEN STARTED, THEN JUST FORGET ABOUT KOSHIEN, LET ALONE PLAYING BASEBALL!
THE MEMBERS OF THIS TEAM

ARE GOING TO KOSHI-EN
AND WINNING THE CHAM-PION-SHIP!

KOSHIEN... CHAMPIONS...

AH! HE'S REALIZED HOW DISCONNECTED FROM REALITY THAT DREAM IS, AGAIN!
HEY, PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER!
HE'S BROKEN DOWN--!
MM-HMM...
HEY, HONMA.
JUST FOR KICKS
...
LET'S SAY THAT WE COULD MANAGE TO PLAY BASEBALL WITH THESE ANIMAL TEAMMATES.
GUYS FROM OTHER TEAMS AREN'T GOING TO BE OKAY WITH IT THOUGH.
SO WHAT THEN?
THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM.
I'VE GOT POWERFUL CONNECTIONS.
WE'LL GET BY SOMEHOW.
CO...
Really...Seriously?!
CONNECTIONS...?!
HMM... I CAN'T SHAKE THIS FEELING OF DOUBT...
HMM...
IF WE CAN REALLY PLAY BALL LIKE THIS, SHOULD WE GO FOR IT...?!
HM.....
LET'S DO IT!
YUSA?!

IF IT GOES ON LIKE THIS, THIS'LL TURN OUT TO BE A BASEBALL MANGA WITHOUT ANY BASEBALL.
ANYHOW, IF WE DON'T *PLAY BASEBALL* WE WON'T MAKE ANY PROGRESS.

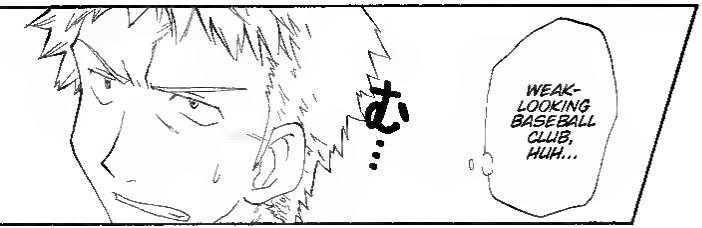

YUSA... YOU'RE TWITCHING ALL OF A SUDDEN.
BUT IS THERE ACTUALLY A TEAM THAT'LL PLAY AGAINST *US*?
TO START OFF, WE'LL PLAY A PRACTICE MATCH AGAINST SOME OTHER TEAM!
YEAHHHH LET'S GO!
ALL RIGHT, LET'S DO IT!
YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT.
...
!!

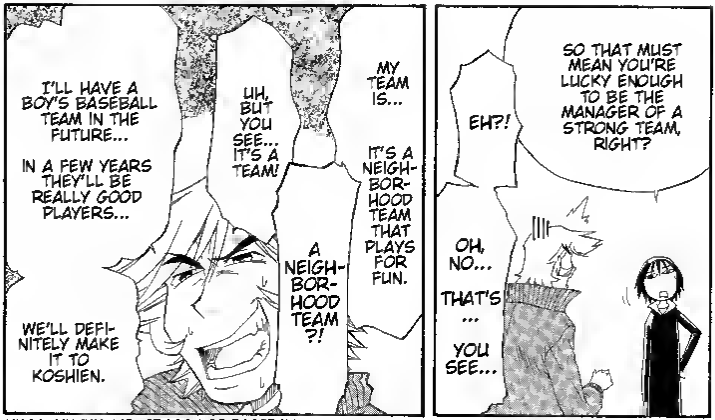
WHO IS IT?!
!!
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR A PRACTICE MATCH, WE'LL BE YOUR OPPONENTS.

NOTE: THIS GUY'S NAME IN KANJI MEANS "A RUDE PERSON", HENCE THE CHAPTER TITLE.

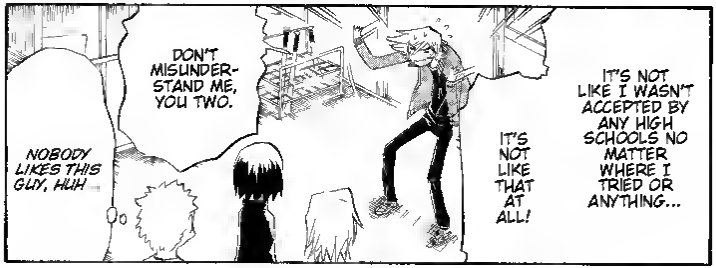
HOW-EVER...
SEMPAI...
(FROM THE COW CLUB)
...
UNDERCLASSMEN?!

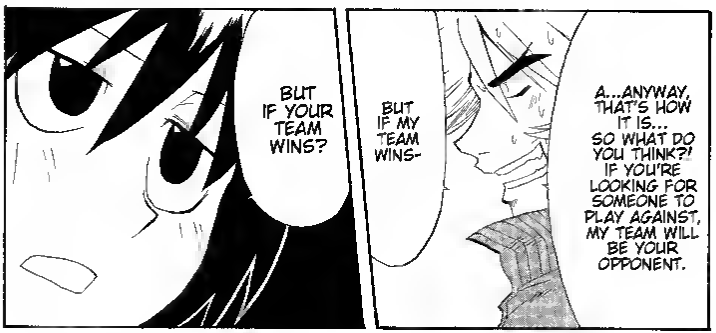
DON'T YOU KNOW THE EXTENT OF YOUR ABILITIES?!
I NEVER THOUGHT THE FUTURE WOULD SEE YOU TWO MANAGING SUCH A WEAK-LOOKING BASEBALL CLUB.


む...
WEAK-LOOKING BASEBALL CLUB, HUH...


I'LL HAVE A BOY'S BASEBALL TEAM IN THE FUTURE...
IN A FEW YEARS THEY'LL BE REALLY GOOD PLAYERS...
WE'LL DEFINITELY MAKE IT TO KOSHIEN.
UH, BUT YOU SEE... IT'S A TEAM!
A NEIGHBORHOOD TEAM?!
MY TEAM IS...
IT'S A NEIGHBORHOOD TEAM THAT PLAYS FOR FUN.
EH?!
SO THAT MUST MEAN YOU'RE LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE THE MANAGER OF A STRONG TEAM, RIGHT?
OH, NO... THAT'S ... YOU SEE...

KUSA YAKYUU! LIT. GRASS-LOT BASEBALL

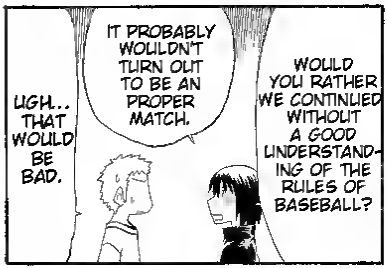

DON'T MISUNDERSTAND ME, YOU TWO.
NOBODY LIKES THIS GUY, HUH
IT'S NOT LIKE I WASN'T ACCEPTED BY ANY HIGH SCHOOLS NO MATTER WHERE I TRIED OR ANYTHING...
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT AT ALL!


BUT IF YOUR TEAM WINS?
BUT IF MY TEAM WINS-
A...ANYWAY, THAT'S HOW IT IS... SO WHAT DO YOU THINK?! IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO PLAY AGAINST, MY TEAM WILL BE YOUR OPPONENT.

THEN I'LL BE TAKING CONTROL OF YOUR BASEBALL CLUB!
YOU JUST SAID THIS WAS A WEAK TEAM.
HE REALLY DOES WANT A HIGH-SCHOOL TEAM...
THIS GUY...
AND IF I WIN?
IF YOU WIN, I'LL GIVE YOU THIS GLOWING SKELETON KEYCHAIN.
DON'T WANT IT.
UGH... IS THAT SO...
THEN YOU LEAVE ME WITH NO CHOICE...
shiny

A MATCH, YOU SAY... AREN'T OUR OPPONENTS A BUNCH OF NEIGHBORHOOD KIDS?
ALL RIGHT EVERYONE, WE'RE PLAYING A MATCH! LET'S BE SURE TO DO OUR BEST.
CAN THEY COMPETE?
YOU'RE REALLY GOING ALONG WITH THIS, HUH, HONMA-CHAN.
I'M IN!!!
I'LL GIVE YOU THIS GOLDEN COW.
I'VE ESTIMATED OUR LIKELIHOOD OF WINNING MANY TIMES, BUT...
Yusa-kun
Nishikawa
Glasses
Mushroom
Mak-kun
Usako
Kokeko
Miko
Konta
Ponta
Inoshan-san
Kumatarou
etc...
OUR TEAM HAS FOUR HUMANS.
YOU MUSTN'T TAKE HIS TEAM LIGHTLY.
YOU SEE,
BUT FIRST OF ALL, HOW MANY ESTIMATES DID YOU DO?
THAT'S HIGH!
IT'S 93 PERCENT... OR SOMETHING AROUND THERE.

HA HA HA. IF YOU'RE AFRAID OF LOSING, FEEL FREE TO BACK OUT,
TEAM MEM-BER 'A'.
OKAY, FORGET IT.
WAHHHH! I WAS JOKING! I'M SO SORRY! THERE'S NO REASON TO QUIT! HEY... COME ON, PLEASE!
...
HMPH...
ALL RIGHT, SO BE IT.
IF WE CAN PLAY STRAIGHT-UP HONEST BASEBALL, WE'LL DO IT.
WE'LL DEFEAT YOU!!
BLADE!!!


WOULD YOU RATHER WE CONTINUED WITHOUT A GOOD UNDERSTANDING OF THE RULES OF BASEBALL?
IT PROBABLY WOULDN'T TURN OUT TO BE AN PROPER MATCH.
UGH... THAT WOULD BE BAD.

TO BE CONTINUED!